

A porous ceramic body protected by a damage resistant hardened surface, and a method for preparing the surface hardened ceramic body. The ceramic body is protected by applying to the surface a slurry composition containing a binding agent, particles of a ceramic material, at least one boron containing compound, and a solvent. The inclusion of at least one boron containing compound in the slurry provides for hardened surfaces that are stable to higher temperatures as compared to those of the prior art.